

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 20 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Aaron Osmond, Senate Chair
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards, House Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Rich Cunningham
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Kraig Powell
Rep. Angela Romero
Rep. Dean Sanpei
Rep. Brad R. Wilson

Members Absent:

Sen. Stuart C. Reid

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Peter L. Asplund, Associate General
Counsel
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Osmond called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m. Sen. Reid was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stevenson and Rep. Menlove were absent for the vote.

2. Overview of Committee Subject Areas and Committee-Related Bills Passed During the 2013 General Session

Mr. Christensen referred to the mailing packet attachment “Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee—Subjects” and provided an overview of subject areas, agencies, and Utah Code sections for which the committee has oversight.

Mr. Asplund referred to the mailing packet attachment “2013 General Session Economic Development and Workforce Service Interim Committee – Related Bills Passed by the Utah State Legislature,” and provided a briefing of the bills passed that relate to the committee’s responsibilities.

3. Required Annual Agency Written Reports

Mr. Christensen referred to a visual presentation and handout “Required Annual Agency Reports,” which outlines why state agencies are required to report to the committee, what they are required to report, who receives the reports, and how the reports are required to be delivered. He said state agencies are willing to provide the information requested, but it is up to the Legislature and the committee to inform agencies what information is wanted, which reports are useful, and which reports are not useful.

Chair Osmond requested that representatives from different agencies present their views on required reporting.

Mr. Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services, stated that much of the information required to be reported may not be useful to the committee. He described a possible one-page, useful, easy-to-read report with more valuable, to-the-point information.

Mr. Michael Sullivan, Director of Communications, Governor's Office of Economic Development, described the communications department's annual report, which could more accurately describe the activities the department is engaged in.

Ms. Julie Fisher, Executive Director, Department of Heritage and Arts (DHA), stated that she would like direction from committee members as to what they prefer in a report. She said that her office uses a balance score card to keep track of details such as items digitized, archeological records, and grants allocated to the community.

MOTION: Rep. Last moved to direct the Department of Workforce Services, the DHA, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development to make recommendations and work with staff to develop a process to provide needed reports and information to the committee and to the public. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Focus and Vision for the Committee's Interim Work

At the direction of Chair Osmond, Mr. Christensen reviewed a handout of the draft "Agenda Planner 2013 – Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee," which lists some of the items the chairs have selected for future meetings.

Chair Osmond requested committee input on issues to be addressed in next month's agenda. Rep. Hemingway suggested a report from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math work group and new privatization work group. Rep. Last requested a review by Economic Development Task Force members of issues addressed in their meetings.

Sen. Jones asked for reports from administrators of public education, the Utah College of Applied Technology, and other higher education schools to address issues and challenges related to economic development. Rep. Menlove requested a briefing from these administrators to address a broader view on the types of jobs the state requires, the types of jobs currently available, and the education, training level, and workforce preparation required for these jobs.

Rep. Edwards suggested reports from chief executive officers of major industries regarding requirements and expectations for needed jobs and a broader view of where industries are headed on these issues.

Rep. Bird suggested a report from the managing director of the Utah Fund of Funds, a quasi-government program aimed at providing access to capital for Utah companies from some of the nation's leading venture and private equity managers, to provide accountability and transparency of the fund's performance and use of funds.

Rep. Wilson asked that the November meeting be dedicated to a discussion of the intergenerational poverty report, which is scheduled to be completed by September or October.

Rep. Last requested an evaluation of committee bills from the last general session, including information on the bills' implementation and effectiveness, and suggested that the committee attempt to cut down on the number of ineffective bills.

5. Economic Development Task Force -- Update

Rep. Brad Wilson, Chair, Economic Development Task Force, informed the committee that the task force has been meeting for one year. He stated that the task force has found that the economy of the state is thriving but has cracks to shore up, such as a stronger development of the workforce.

Rep. Wilson stated that the task force has also spent the last year informing all members as to why Utah is so unique and has such a great economic reputation nationwide. He added that the next day, at the task force's first meeting this interim, the members are planning to create a list of ideas and goals for the next 20 to 30 years to maintain and develop an even more successful economy. Rep. Wilson noted that the task force is planning to reach out to stakeholders as to what their ideas might be and will prioritize those ideas. From there, he said, the task force will narrow down all ideas to a short but comprehensive set of ideas to work on.

As to quality of life, Rep. Wilson continued, the task force plans to address air quality, how it affects economic development, and steps that may be taken to improve it.

Chair Osmond said that the committee is looking forward to hearing the task force's final report in November.

6. Department of Heritage and Arts – Structure, Mission, Duties, Goals, and Concerns

Ms. Fisher introduced the department's officers and division directors, gave a brief history of the department, and stated its purpose. She informed the committee that the state's arts council is the oldest in the nation. She explained that customer relations, which was a management concern, have greatly improved.

Ms. Fisher reviewed DHA's digitization of over 2,000,000 cultural resource items, noted that prospective partners can go online to submit digitization projects, and explained that state publications are accessible online. She stated that the DHA has an ongoing relationship with the University of Utah's Marriott Library, which has maximized digitization funding.

Mr. Brian Somers, Deputy Director, DHA, described the department's vast library system, including eight bookmobiles and braille resources for adults and children. He testified that Utah is third in the nation for the number of library items borrowed. He also stated that historic tax credit projects create 1,000 state jobs annually. He pointed out that the state history division is used for genealogical and historical building research, and the archeological and antiquities section is available to assist people to comply with statutory requirements.

Mr. Somers reemphasized that the DHA, as the oldest state art agency, has an active loan program to get art out to the community and has visited 227 schools in the past five years. He added that the Utah Division of Indian Affairs provides a liaison between the state's Native American population and the governor. Mr. Somers pointed out that the division retrieves Native American remains found to be repatriated to tribal nations for proper burial, which greatly encourages good relations with the Native American community. He reported that 25% of the state's oil and natural gas resources are found on tribal lands.

Mr. Somers stated that the Office of Multicultural Affairs replaced the Office of Ethnic Affairs with the goal of better understanding the issues of ethnic communities and assisting at-risk students in understanding the value of education and setting career development goals

Regarding the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism, Mr. Somers spoke of the AmeriCorps program as an example of great volunteerism, which meets critical community needs and prevents many people from having to depend on the state government. He said the CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an appointee of the president of the United States, congratulated Utah for its great efforts in being number one in the nation for volunteerism.

Ms. Fisher concluded by stating that the DHA goals for the year are to increase digital resources, develop new partnerships with community and nonprofit organizations, and implement more interdepartmental collaborations.

7. Other Committee Business/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Bird moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Osmond adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.